

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF RICHLAND

LARESSA B. BRANTLEY

Plaintiff(s)

vs.

SUNSET MANAGEMENT, INC. AND WAYNE  
GREEN

Defendant(s)

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

CIVIL ACTION COVERSHEET

2015-CP - 40- 7158

Submitted By: Arthur K. Aiken  
Address: 2231 Devine Street Suite 201 Columbia, SC 29205SC Bar #: 12983  
Telephone #: 803-799-5205  
Fax #: 803-799-5206

Other:

E-mail: art@aikenandhightower.com

NOTE: The coversheet and information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law. This form is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of docketing. It must be filled out completely, signed, and dated. A copy of this coversheet must be served on the defendant(s) along with the Summons and Complaint.

## DOCKETING INFORMATION (Check all that apply)

\*If Action is Judgment/Settlement do not complete

- ☒ JURY TRIAL demanded in complaint. ☐ NON-JURY TRIAL demanded in complaint.  
☐ This case is subject to ARBITRATION pursuant to the Court Annexed Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules.  
☐ This case is subject to MEDIATION pursuant to the Court Annexed Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules.  
☐ This case is exempt from ADR. (Proof of ADR/Exemption Attached)

## NATURE OF ACTION (Check One Box Below)

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <b>Contracts</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Constructions (100)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Debt Collection (110)<br><input type="checkbox"/> General (130)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Breach of Contract (140)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Fraud/Bad Faith (150)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Failure to Deliver/Warranty (160)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employment Discrim (170)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Employment (180)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (199) | <b>Torts - Professional Malpractice</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Dental Malpractice (200)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Legal Malpractice (210)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Medical Malpractice (220)<br>Previous Notice of Intent Case #<br>20 -NI-<br><input type="checkbox"/> Notice/ File Med Mal (230)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (299)   | <b>Torts - Personal Injury</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Conversion (310)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Motor Vehicle Accident (320)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Premises Liability (330)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Products Liability (340)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Personal Injury (350)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Wrongful Death (360)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Assault/Battery (370)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Slander/Libel (380)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (399)   | <b>Real Property</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Claim & Delivery (400)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Condemnation (410)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Foreclosure (420)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mechanic's Lien (430)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Partition (440)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Possession (450)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Building Code Violation (460)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (499)  |
| <b>Inmate Petitions</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> PCR (500)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mandamus (520)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Habeas Corpus (530)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (599)   | <b>Administrative Law/Relief</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Reinstate Drv. License (800)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Judicial Review (810)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Relief (820)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Permanent Injunction (830)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Forfeiture-Petition (840)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Forfeiture-Consent Order (850)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (899) | <b>Judgments/Settlements</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Death Settlement (700)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Judgment (710)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Magistrate's Judgment (720)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Minor Settlement (730)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Transcript Judgment (740)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Lis Pendens (750)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Transfer of Structured Settlement Payment Rights Application (760)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Confession of Judgment (770)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Petition for Workers Compensation Settlement Approval (780)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (799) | <b>Appeals</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Arbitration (900)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Magistrate-Civil (910)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Magistrate-Criminal (920)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Municipal (930)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Probate Court (940)<br><input type="checkbox"/> SCDOT (950)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Worker's Comp (960)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Zoning Board (970)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Public Service Comm. (990)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Employment Security Comm (991)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (999) |
| <b>Special/Complex /Other</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental (600)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Automobile Arb. (610)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Medical (620)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (699)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Predator (510)  |  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmaceuticals (630)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unfair Trade Practices (640)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Out-of State Depositions (650)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Motion to Quash Subpoena in an Out-of-County Action (660)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Suit Discovery (670)  |  |   |  |

Submitting Party Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 12-1-15

Note: Frivolous civil proceedings may be subject to sanctions pursuant to SCRCP, Rule 11, and the South Carolina Frivolous  
 SCCA / 234 (06/2015)

**FOR MANDATED ADR COUNTIES ONLY**

Aiken, Allendale, Anderson, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Cherokee, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Greenville, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Kershaw, Lee, Lexington, Marion, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Richland, Spartanburg, Sumter, Union, Williamsburg, and York

SUPREME COURT RULES REQUIRE THE SUBMISSION OF ALL CIVIL CASES TO AN ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS, UNLESS OTHERWISE EXEMPT.

**You are required to take the following action(s):**

1. The parties shall select a neutral and file a "Proof of ADR" form on or by the 210<sup>th</sup> day of the filing of this action. If the parties have not selected a neutral within 210 days, the Clerk of Court shall then appoint a primary and secondary mediator from the current roster on a rotating basis from among those mediators agreeing to accept cases in the county in which the action has been filed.
2. The initial ADR conference must be held within 300 days after the filing of the action.
3. Pre-suit medical malpractice mediations required by S.C. Code §15-79-125 shall be held not later than 120 days after all defendants are served with the "Notice of Intent to File Suit" or as the court directs. (Medical malpractice mediation is mandatory statewide.)
4. Cases are exempt from ADR only upon the following grounds:
  - a. Special proceeding, or actions seeking extraordinary relief such as mandamus, habeas corpus, or prohibition;
  - b. Requests for temporary relief;
  - c. Appeals
  - d. Post Conviction relief matters;
  - e. Contempt of Court proceedings;
  - f. Forfeiture proceedings brought by governmental entities;
  - g. Mortgage foreclosures; and
  - h. Cases that have been previously subjected to an ADR conference, unless otherwise required by Rule 3 or by statute.
5. In cases not subject to ADR, the Chief Judge for Administrative Purposes, upon the motion of the court or of any party, may order a case to mediation.
6. Motion of a party to be exempt from payment of neutral fees due to indigency should be filed with the Court within ten (10) days after the ADR conference has been concluded.

**Please Note:** You must comply with the Supreme Court Rules regarding ADR.  
Failure to do so may affect your case or may result in sanctions.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND )

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
FOR THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
Civil Action Number:

Laressa B. Brantley )

Plaintiff, )

v. )

**SUMMONS**  
**(Jury Trial Requested)**

Sunset Management, Inc. and )  
Wayne Greene, )

Defendants. )

**TO THE DEFENDANTS ABOVE NAMED:**

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED** and required to answer the Complaint this action, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your answer to the Complaint on the subscribers at their offices, located at 2231 Devine Street, Suite 201, Columbia, South Carolina 29205, within thirty (30) days after the service hereof, exclusive of the date of such service; and if you fail to answer, appear and defend within thirty (30) days after service hereof, exclusive of the date of such service, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Respectfully Submitted,

**AIKEN & HIGHTOWER, P.A.**

By: 

**ARTHUR K. AIKEN**

2231 Devine Street, Suite 201

Columbia, South Carolina 29205

Phone: (803) 799-5205

Fax: (803) 799-5206

Email: [art@aikenandhightower.com](mailto:art@aikenandhightower.com)

**ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF**

Columbia, South Carolina  
December 1, 2015

RICHLAND COUNTY  
FILED  
2015 DEC -1 PM 12:02  
JEANNETTE W. MCBRIDE  
C.C.P. & C.S.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF RICHLAND )

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
FOR THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
Civil Action Number:

Laressa B. Brantley )

Plaintiff, )

v. )

Sunset Management, Inc. and  
Wayne Greene, )

Defendants. )

**COMPLAINT**  
**(Jury Trial Requested)**

RICHLAND COUNTY  
FILED  
2015 DEC -1 PM 12:32  
JEANNETTE W. MCGRIDE  
C.C.P. & G.S.

The Plaintiff, Laressa B. Brantley (Brantley), complains against the Defendants, Sunset Management, Inc. (Sunset Management) and Wayne Greene (Greene) as follows:

**PARTIES**

1. Brantley is a female citizen and resident of Sumter County, South Carolina.
2. Sunset Management is a South Carolina Corporation in the business of consumer lending with its principal place of business in Seneca, South Carolina and with offices and agents in Richland County, South Carolina.
3. Greene is a male citizen and resident of Sumter County, South Carolina.

**JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this case and will have personal jurisdiction over the Defendants on proper service of the Summons and Complaint.
5. Venue is proper in this Court.

**ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CAUSES OF ACTION**

6. At all times relevant to the allegations in this Complaint, Sunset Management had more than fifteen (15) employees.

7. From February 3, 2014 until her termination on July 22, 2014, Brantley worked for Sunset Management with the position of Assistant Manager as of her termination.

8. During her employment with Sunset Management, Brantley worked primarily at a Sunset Management consumer lending office in Sumter, South Carolina (Sumter location), and all of the sexual harassment described below occurred at that location.

9. During Brantley's employment with Sunset Management, Greene worked for Sunset Management as Manager for the Sumter location, and in that position, Greene was Brantley's immediate supervisor.

10. During Brantley's employment with Sunset Management, Greene sexually harassed Brantley by doing the following, among other things:

- a. During training sessions, Greene would place his hands on Brantley's knee, move his hand up Brantley's thigh to the point that Brantley would have to remove Greene's hand, and kiss Brantley on the face, neck, and ear;
- b. when Brantley arrived in the mornings, Greene would make Brantley "model" her clothing;
- c. Greene repeatedly suggested that Brantley wear revealing clothing;
- d. Greene repeatedly commented on Brantley's body parts in sexually suggestive ways;
- e. Greene slapped and grabbed Brantley's rear end;
- f. Greene stuck his hand down Brantley's shirt and rubbed Brantley's breasts; and
- g. For several weeks, Greene made comments suggesting that Brantley was a lesbian;

11. Brantley reported Greene's sexual harassment to supervisory level employees of Sunset Management.

12. Instead of taking steps to remedy Greene's sexual harassment of Brantley, Sunset Management retaliated against Brantley because of her complaint about Greene's sexual harassment by terminating her on July 22, 2014 .

**FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

13. Brantley re-alleges all allegations in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint that are consistent herewith.

14. This action is, in part, an action under 42 USC § 2000e-5 that alleges sexual harassment and retaliation for making a sexual harassment claim.

15. Within one hundred eighty (180) days of the sexual harassment and retaliation, Brantley filed a Charge of Discrimination with the South Carolina State Human Affairs Commission (SHAC) in which she alleged sexual harassment by Greene and charged Sunset Management with unlawful sex discrimination and retaliation against her for making a sexual harassment complaint.

16. On August 11, 2015, SHAC issued a Notice of Right to Sue to Brantley, and on September 2, 2015, the EEOC issued a Notice of Right to Sue to Brantley.

17. Brantley suffered discrimination because of her sex in that she was subjected to sexual harassment that was both severe and pervasive and suffered retaliation in that she was terminated for making a sexual harassment complaint.

18. The sexual harassment was of the hostile work environment type in that it made it impossible for Brantley to continue her employment.

19. Brantley told supervisory level employees of Sunset Management about the ongoing sexual harassment of Brantley weeks before Brantley's termination and yet Sunset Management personnel did nothing to stop it.



20. The sexual harassment and retaliation have caused great harm to Brantley in that she has suffered and continues to suffer mental anguish, emotional distress, loss of income both past and future, and impairment of her earning capacity.

21. Brantley is informed and believes that she is entitled to recover actual and punitive damages from Sunset Management for sexual harassment and retaliation in violation of 42 USC § 2000e-5.

#### **FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

22. Brantley re-alleges all allegations in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint that are consistent herewith.

23. The nearly constant sexual harassment and the retaliation described above made it impossible for Brantley to perform her job any longer.

24. Brantley's loss of her job with Sunset Management and the resulting mental anguish, emotional distress, loss of income both past and future and impairment of her earning capacity were directly caused by the sexual harassment and retaliation to which she was subjected.

25. Brantley is informed and believes that she is entitled to recover actual and punitive damages from Sunset Management for wrongful discharge.

#### **FOR A THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

26. Brantley re-alleges all allegations of the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint that are consistent herewith.

27. Greene's intentional conduct as detailed above was extreme and outrageous, and it caused Brantley to suffer severe emotional distress.

28. Greene's conduct was so extreme and outrageous as to exceed all possible bounds of decency and must be regarded as atrocious and utterly intolerable in a civilized community.

29. Greene's conduct caused Brantley to suffer severe emotional distress.
30. Brantley's emotional distress was so severe such that no reasonable person could be expected to endure it.
31. Brantley has suffered damages proximately caused by Greene's outrageous conduct.
32. Brantley is informed and believes that she is entitled to recover actual and punitive damages against Greene for his intentional infliction of emotional distress.

WHEREFORE, Brantley prays for judgment against the Defendants for actual damages, punitive damages, attorney's fees, costs and such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

Respectfully Submitted,

AIKEN & HIGHTOWER, P.A.

By: 

ARTHUR K. AIKEN

2231 Devine Street, Suite 201

Columbia, South Carolina 29205

Phone: (803) 799-5205

Fax: (803) 799-5206

Email: [art@aikenandhightower.com](mailto:art@aikenandhightower.com)

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

Columbia, SC  
December 1, 2015